

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application. Claims 7-10 and 35-38 have been deleted without prejudice. Claims 11-34 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the oxidation agent containing iodine includes at least one selected from the group consisting of NH₄IO₃, LiIO₃, CaIO₃, BaIO₃, KI, and NH₄I. New claim 39 has been added.

Support for the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been submitted by virtue of this amendment.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 11-34 have been allowed, and that claims 3, 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The elements of the original claims 1 and 3 are combined into new claim 39. As such, claim 39 is allowable over the cited reference.

Moreover, as noted above, claim 1 has been amended herewith to further clarify that the oxidation agent containing iodine includes at least one selected from the group consisting of NH₄IO₃, LiIO₃, CaIO₃, BaIO₃, KI, and NH₄I.

(i) Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Keitetsu (JP 2000133635).

It is respectfully submitted that Keitetsu fails to teach or suggest “an oxidation agent containing iodine, wherein the oxidation agent containing iodine includes at least one selected from the group consisting of NH₄IO₃, LiIO₃, CaIO₃, BaIO₃, KI, and NH₄I”, as essentially recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Keitetsu.

As claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1, these dependent claims are likewise not anticipated by the cited reference for the reasons given above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as well as the objections to claims 3, 5 and 6.

(ii) Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as anticipated by Kwag (US 6,140,233).

It is respectfully submitted that Kwag does not teach or suggest “an oxidation agent containing iodine, wherein the oxidation agent containing iodine includes at least one selected from the group consisting of NH₄IO₃, LiIO₃, CaIO₃, BaIO₃, KI, and NH₄I”, as essentially recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Kwag.

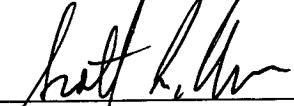
As claims 2-6 depend from and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1, these dependent claims are likewise not anticipated by the cited reference for the reasons given above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as well as the objections to claims 3, 5 and 6.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner’s early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or comments in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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